DR. WM. RUSSELL AND EMMA HATCH WHERRITT



William Russell Wherritt, prominent medical doctor in Heber, was born December

16, 1871, in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, to Thomas J. and Elizabeth Russell Wherritt. He married Emma Hatch in September, 1900, in Heber City. She was born March 10, 1878, in Heber, daughter of Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch. They had three children, Dr. Russell Wherritt, Dr. Barton Wherritt (deceased), and Mrs. Lois W. Todd.

Dr. Wherritt was educated in Missouri schools and at the age of 17 was a registered pharmacist In 1898 he graduated from the Kansas City Medical College and began practicing medicine in Goldfield, Colorado. He came to Park City on occasion to visit two brothers, and in 1899 decided to settle and practice in Heber. He endured all the hardships of rural practice before improved roads or electricity. For many years he was the only doctor in the valley and was without the help of trained nurses. Often he would become lost in winter blizzards at night and spent hours making his way to attend those who were ill. During World War I and the influenza epidemic of 1918 he was the only doctor in the area. A nurse, Kapulani Makahanohano, was sent by the State Board of Health from Salt Lake to assist him during the epidemic. Beginning in 1902, Dr. Wherritt served both as Heber City and Wasatch County health physician and also was railroad physician many years. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. He died November 4, 1948, of a heart attack, in his forty-ninth year of medical practice in the county. He loved his profession and no day was ever too long for him but what he could greet his patients with a smile.

Mrs. Wherritt, eldest daughter of Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch, was a granddaughter of Abram Hatch, first stake president in the valley. She attended business college at BYU and for some years was bookkeeper and office assistant to her father in A. Hatch & Co. She was an active civic worker, serving six years as vice chairman and 16 years as chairman of the American Red Cross in the county. She helped organize the American Legion auxiliary and was a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club. She also took care of her husband's office work, answered telephones and operated much of his private business, leaving him

free to carry on his medical practice. In 1961 she was named Wasatch County "Mother of the Year," in tribute to her many accomplishments. She also served many years as president of Wasatch Camp, Daughters of Utah Pioneers. 507

